

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the subject application. No claims have been indicated to be allowable.

35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Myers (U.S. Patent 4,728,416). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention, as now claimed, recites a process for reducing the sulfur content of **liquid products**, including gasoline and middle distillate cracking products, obtained during an FCC process. In accordance with the process of the invention at least one vanadium containing compound is added to a liquid hydrocarbon feedstock containing sulfur, and optionally, vanadium and/or nickel, as impurities to **selectively** increase the concentration of vanadium in the feedstock. The vanadium-enriched feedstock is thereafter charged into a FCC unit operating under steady state conditions to contact a FCC cracking catalyst *in situ* with a high concentration of vanadium, expressed as elemental vanadium.

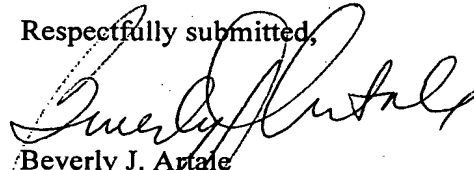
Myers discloses an improved process of catalytic cracking a gas oil feed to obtain naphtha products of improved octane number. The process comprises introducing a sufficient amount of a **nickel and vanadium metals-containing heavy feedstock** with the gas oil feed into the cracking zone of an FCCU **to raise the content of both nickel and vanadium metals on the catalyst** to a specific level, expressed as equivalent nickel, based on the weight of the catalyst.

Contrary to the Examiner's allegation, the Myers reference is silent with respect to sulfur reduction and fails to teach or in any way disclose a process to reduce the sulfur content of **liquid products** produced during a FCC process. In fact, it is believed that Myers at col.8, lines 10 -30 actually teaches away from Applicants' invention by teaching that sulfur may actually be desired in the Myers process to maintain metals such as Ni, V, Cu and Fe in the sulfide form in the reactor during the FCC process.(See Col. 8, lines 21-30). Further, Myers fails to teach or in anyway suggest **selectively increasing the vanadium concentration on the cracking catalyst** (while essentially not changing the other properties of the catalyst or feed) to obtain liquid cracked products having a reduced sulfur content.

Consequently, Myers fails to anticipate Applicants' invention as now claimed by failing to teach each and every element thereof. Accordingly, this rejection is improper and should now be withdrawn.

For reasons as stated herein above, Applicants' invention is patentable over the prior art of record. Allowance of claims 1-13 of the subject application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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